

## **2002 Internal Affairs Unit Report**

A Police Officer shall perform all duties impartially, without favor or affection or ill will and without regard to status, sex, race, religion, political belief or aspiration. All citizens will be treated equally with courtesy, consideration and dignity. Officers will never allow personal feelings, animosities or friendships to influence official conduct. Laws will be enforced appropriately and courteously and, in carrying out their responsibilities, Officers will strive to obtain maximum cooperation from the public. They will conduct themselves in appearance and deportment in such a manner as to inspire confidence and respect for the position of public trust they hold.

A Police Officer acts as an official representative of government who is required and trusted to work within the law. The Officer's powers and duties are conferred by statute. The fundamental duties of a Police Officer include serving the community, safeguarding lives and property, protecting the innocent, keeping the peace and ensuring the rights of all to liberty, equality and justice.

To ensure that these goals and mission statements are fulfilled in a professional manner by the Police Officers, the Canton Police Department has in place an Internal Affairs Office which functions as a checks and balance and in essence is 'Police policing themselves'.

The Internal Affairs Unit is primarily responsible for conducting investigations of misconduct, allegations of a serious nature and those of a less serious nature. These allegations are generated both from the citizen population and from employees.

*The investigation of these complaints is conducted with three purposes in mind:*

1. To protect the integrity of the Canton Police Department
2. To protect the public's interest
3. To protect the accused officers from unjust accusations

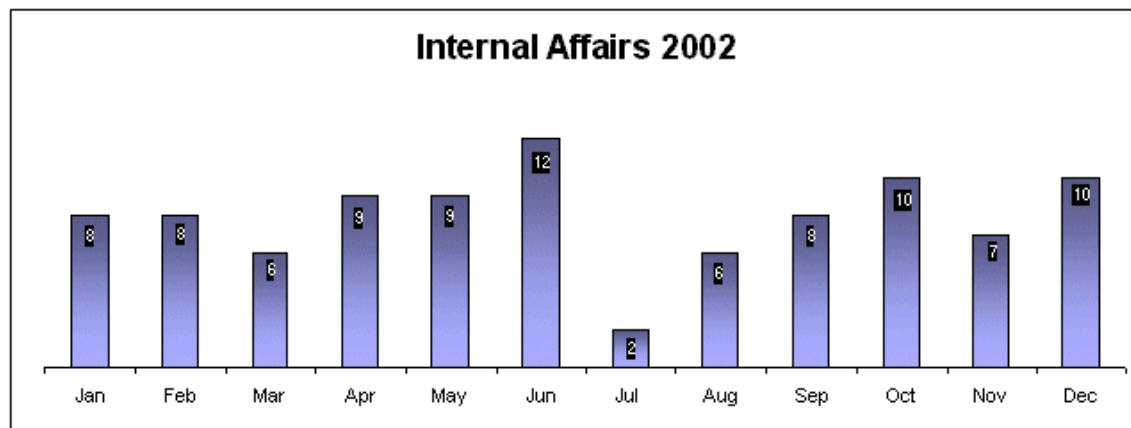
The Internal Affairs Bureau headed by Captain J.W. Myers, is also staffed by Sergeant G. Boudreaux and their secretary Cynthia L. Jones, and is located on the 6th floor of City Hall. This year, we completed our Internal Affairs webpage, which is located on the City of Canton web site at [www.cantonohio.gov](http://www.cantonohio.gov). There you can find information on how we operate, download a complaint form, e-mail us confidentially, or get a schedule of our meetings. Even this annual report is available from our page as well. The site has been beneficial to the public researching information about Internal Affairs, as well as assisting law enforcement officials in current procedures and regulations.

The Mayor's Community Relations Commission, which has been in place since 2001, continues to work with Internal Affairs in a recommending capacity in reviewing completed cases. At their request, the Commission has reviewed approximately 20 cases for the year 2002.

During 2002, the Canton Police Department's Internal Affairs Unit received 95 complaints, each generating a case for investigation. As each new case comes into the Department, information

about the complaint, including the date filed, alleged charges against the officers as well as maintaining the current status of that investigation are updated. This report is then forwarded each month to various department heads including the Chief of Police and the City Safety Director for their review.

To get a better idea of the caseload reported during the past year, the following statistical graph will show the flow of cases to Internal Affairs as they occurred month to month.



While the actual strength of officers within the Police Department was at 177, there were 64 Canton Police Officers named as "Focus Officers" in Internal Affairs cases. There was one case in which civilian employees within the City were investigated during this year.

The cases are grouped into two separate types. 1) Departmental, when an employee or officer is filing against another employee or officer; 2) Citizen, when a citizen is the complainant against the employee or officer. The latter being the largest with 89 charges filed, and 44 departmental charges filed with the City of Canton. This total of 133 charges is a result of the 95 cases handled within Internal Affairs during 2002.

One case may contain two or more charges against an officer. For example, one complainant may accuse an officer of both police misconduct and deportment in the same case. Each charge implied is then thoroughly investigated, and a recommended disposition is presented to the Chief of Police for review and final approval.

*The outcome, or disposition of each charge is set into six basic categories:*

- Sustained - (The allegation is supported)
- Not Sustained - (Insufficient evidence to either prove or disprove the allegation)
- Unfounded - (The allegation was false or did not occur)
- Exonerated - (The alleged act occurred but was justified, legal and proper under the circumstances)
- Referred - (To be decided by another authority)
- Baseless/Frivolous - (Allegation holds no merit or is senseless in nature)

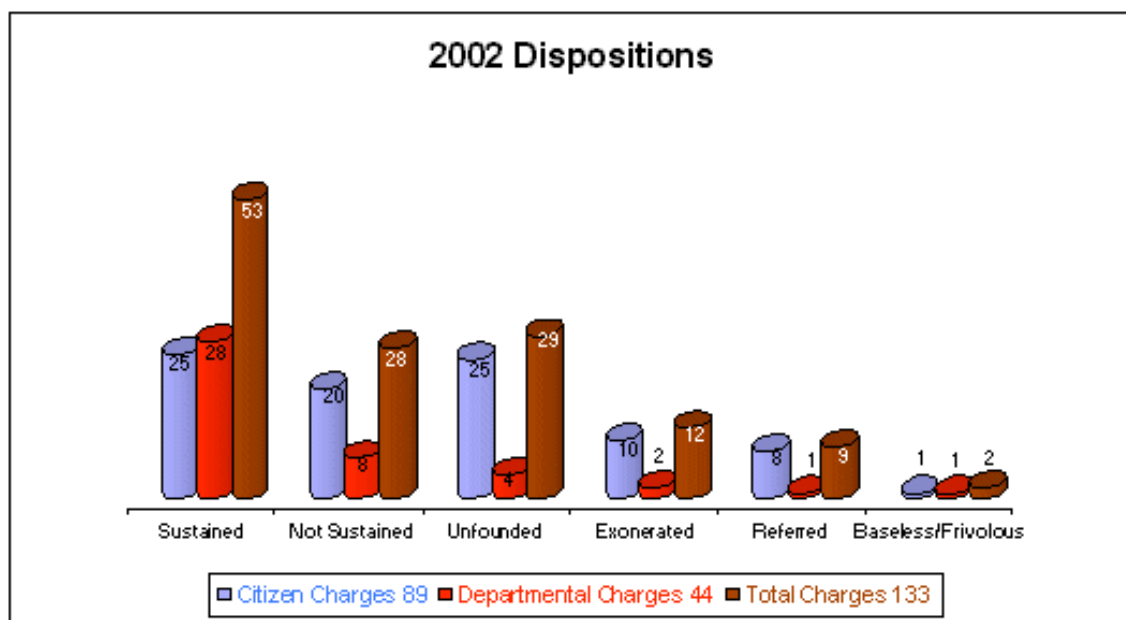
As a result of the 133 charges against City Personnel, below are the year 2002 dispositions based on these categories.

Charges Sustained	53	40% of total
Charges Not Sustained	28	21% of total
Charges Unfounded	29	22% of total
Charges Exonerated	12	9% of total
Charges Referred or Baseless	11	8% of total

*Any focus officer with charges that were sustained received the following disciplinary actions:*

Letters of Training	7 officers
Letters of Reprimand	2 officers
Suspended from duty from 3 to 20 days	10 officers
Suspended pending criminal charges	1 officer
Resigned	2 officers
Terminated pending criminal charges	1 officer
Still pending final disposition or disciplinary hearing	5 officers

The graph below shows an overview of findings for the year 2002 cases investigated by Internal Affairs.



Complaints that are filed with Internal Affairs are precipitated by alleged conduct of an officer while on or even off duty. Most cases are instances when an officer comes into contact with a citizen, and that citizen is detained or arrested. Some however, are a result of their behavior when off duty. Even then, police officers are expected to conduct themselves congruously so as not to discredit themselves or the department they serve.

Previously, excessive force and racial profiling have been an issue as it relates to both the public, and City officials as well. Internal Affairs has received 9 use of force and 1 racial profiling allegation out of a total of 133 charges during 2002. Down from 13 and 2 respectively in 2001. A breakdown of the 95 complainants who came into Internal Affairs during 2002 includes:

Black Males 17  
White Males 17  
Black Females 13  
White Females 19  
Department Supervisors 9  
Chief of Police 20

The overall percentage of persons who have filed cases with Internal Affairs is detailed in the below pie chart. Please take note that due to the increase in complaints generated within the department by Supervisors and the Chief, our statistics have been modified to include those as well.

Captain J.W. Myers, O.I.C.

Sergeant G. Boudreaux

